



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Hoeven Proclaims *School Nurse Day* in North Dakota

BISMARCK, N.D. – Governor John Hoven has proclaimed Wednesday, May 11, 2005, as *School Nurse Day* in North Dakota.

School Nurse Day honors professional nurses practicing in educational settings where they provide health care, counseling and health education to students and their families.

“Healthy children learn better,” said State Health Officer Terry Dwelle, M.D., M.P.H.T.M. “*School Nurse Day* provides an opportunity to celebrate the important work school nurses do to keep our kids healthy. I encourage schools and communities to recognize school nurses for their contributions to the health of our children.”

“School nurses play a crucial role in children’s primary and preventive health care,” said Lorie Martel, coordinator for the North Dakota Department of Health’s Child and Adolescent Program. “School nurses promote healthy lifestyles and provide health and safety education to students and staff.”

The National Association of School Nurses recommends one nurse for every 750 students. Currently, about 80 nurses provide health services in North Dakota schools – one school nurse for every 4,717 students.

A full appreciation of how much school nurses do to keep kids healthy is a key component of *School Nurse Day* celebrations. The Department of Health encourages schools and communities to join with their school nurses in celebrating this important day.

For more information, contact Lorie Martel, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.4535.

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PROCLAMATION
SCHOOL NURSE DAY
May 11, 2005

WHEREAS, children are our most valuable resource and will become North Dakota's leaders of tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, the physical, mental and emotional well-being of our children is paramount to their growth and development; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota's school nurses are dedicated health-care professionals who work in collaboration with families, schools and communities to develop and promote comprehensive health-care programs for our youth; and

WHEREAS, in addition to providing for students' immediate health needs, school nurses continually promote healthy lifestyles and provide health and safety education to students and staff; and

WHEREAS, North Dakotans are encouraged to promote the good health of our children and recognize school nurses for their contributions to the health and safety of our students; and

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim May 11, 2005, as **SCHOOL NURSE DAY** in the state of North Dakota.

John Hoeven
Governor